Quarterly Population Report

Third Quarter 2016

Alberta's population growth continues to slow[1]

With the slowdown in economic activity and employment losses earlier this year, the pace of Alberta's population growth is slowing. Despite solid immigration and natural increase, interprovincial net outflows weighed on growth, which slowed to 0.38% this quarter. Alberta added about 16,000 residents between July and September, reaching 4,268,929 as of October 1st. Alberta's growth dipped below the national average this quarter for the first time in 22 years as net interprovincial migration outflows continue to pick up steam.

In the third quarter of 2016, provinces hit by lower oil prices (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador) all posted lower growth compared to the previous year.

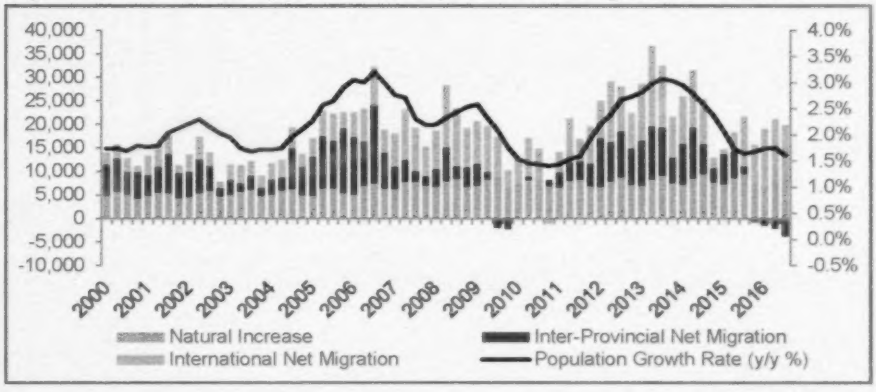
Natural increase continued to drive population growth, contributing 0.22% to Alberta's growth, while total net migration accounted for 0.16%.

1 All data are from Statistics Canada. Estimates from 2007–2016 are based on the 2011 Census adjusted for net census undercount and incompletely enumerated Indian Reserves. All estimates are subject to revision.

Table 1: Population & Growth Rates Canada and Alberta

Population			Yearly Growth Rate		
1-Oct	Canada	Alberta	1-Oct	Canada	Alberta
2011	34,469,327	3,807,046	2011	0.99%	1.59%
2012	34,880,866	3,908,789	2012	1.19%	2.67%
2013	35,293,347	4,029,102	2013	1.18%	3.08%
2014	35,677,466	4,133,626	2014	1.09%	2.59%
2015	35,981,735	4,201,458	2015	0.85%	1.64%
2016	36,443,632	4,268,929	2016	1.28%	1.61%

Figure 1: Alberta Components of Population Change, 3rd Quarter



Alberta's year over year population growth remains ahead of the national average (1.61%[2] and 1.28%, respectively), and second highest among the provinces (Table 2).

Migration

Net international migration continued to offset increasing outflows of net interprovincial migrants, despite softer immigration. Total net migration added 6,594 new residents this quarter, a third quarter low not seen since 2010.

Interprovincial migration

Alberta saw large net outflows to Ontario (-2,748) and British Columbia (-2,420), while gaining 816 net new residents from Saskatchewan (Map 1). Net outflows to Ontario increased over ten-fold this quarter compared to the previous one. Alberta was second in net losses this quarter,

2 This growth represents year-over-year variation (Oct. 1, 2015 to Oct. 1, 2016).

Table 2: Population of Provinces/ Territories as of Oct. 1, 2016 and Growth Rates since Oct. 1, 2015

	Population	Growth Rate (y/y)
Canada	36,443,632	1.28%
NL	530,376	0.19%
PEI	149,278	1.55%
NS	952,333	0.75%
NB	757,997	0.47%
QC	8,349,793	0.85%
ON	14,063,256	1.51%
MB	1,323,958	1.74%
SK	1,155,393	1.58%
AB	4,268,929	1.61%
BC	4,773,345	1.26%
YT	37,624	1.06%
NT	44,204	-0.42%
NV	37,146	1.33%

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following Quebec (-4,220). Other provinces with notable losses include Manitoba (-2,731) and Saskatchewan (-1,915). Only Ontario (11,591) and British Columbia (3,579) saw net gains this quarter (Table 3).

Interprovincial migration for Alberta is heavily tied to economic conditions in the province; however it tends to lag in its reaction to economic changes. With the slowdown in economic activity and employment losses earlier this year, net interprovincial outflows are picking up steam. Alberta lost 3,850 residents to the rest of the country, the fourth straight quarter of net outflows, and the largest quarterly loss since the second quarter of 1988 (Table 4).

However, compared to the 1980's, these outflows have a much smaller effect on overall growth as current high levels of international migration cushion the effects of interprovincial losses. In the second quarter of 1988, net international migration was only about 4,000, just under a third of the current level.

Net International Migration

As interprovincial migration lags, net international migration continues to support population growth in the province. However, net international migration softened slightly relative to the same quarter last year. Alberta welcomed 10,444 net new international migrants between July and September. Immigration was lower this quarter while net non-permanent residents (NPRs) flows were positive for the first time in almost two years.

This quarter saw immigration to Canada soften off recent highs; this in turn has slowed immigration to much of the country. Alberta welcomed 10,072 new permanent residents this quarter (Table 4); a third quarter level comparable to what was seen before the start of the Express Entry immigration program. Alberta's share of Canada's immigrants this quarter fell to 14.8%, which has not seen in almost 3 years. Alberta was the third largest recipient of Canadian immigrants, following behind Ontario (36.3%) and Quebec (21.6%)

For the first time in almost two years, Alberta saw a net inflow of NPRs (1,159). NPRs were positive across the country, save for Nunavut, who saw a small net outflow. The stock of NPRs in Alberta was slightly lifted by this positive quarter, currently sitting at just over 80,000.

Set by the Federal Government, Canadian immigration targets for the calendar year of 2016 were 305,000. With one quarter left in the year, Canada needs to welcome almost 65,000 new permanent residents to hit that. After seeing strong landings numbers in the first two quarters of the calendar year, it is possible that immigration softened in this quarter because Canadian immigration is well on track to reach its target level. Immigration to Canada was lower this quarter than in the past five, with Canada welcoming over 68,000 new residents.

Natural increase

Natural increase contributed 9,456 new Albertans this quarter, with 15,529 babies being born and 6,073 deaths (Table 4). Thanks to Alberta's large cohort of young adults, Alberta continues to have the highest natural growth rate of the provinces. Natural increase is Alberta's most stable component of growth, and continues to be an important contributor to growth as the other components ebb and flow in strength.

Contact

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Map 1: Net Population Movement for Alberta July 1 to September 30, 2016

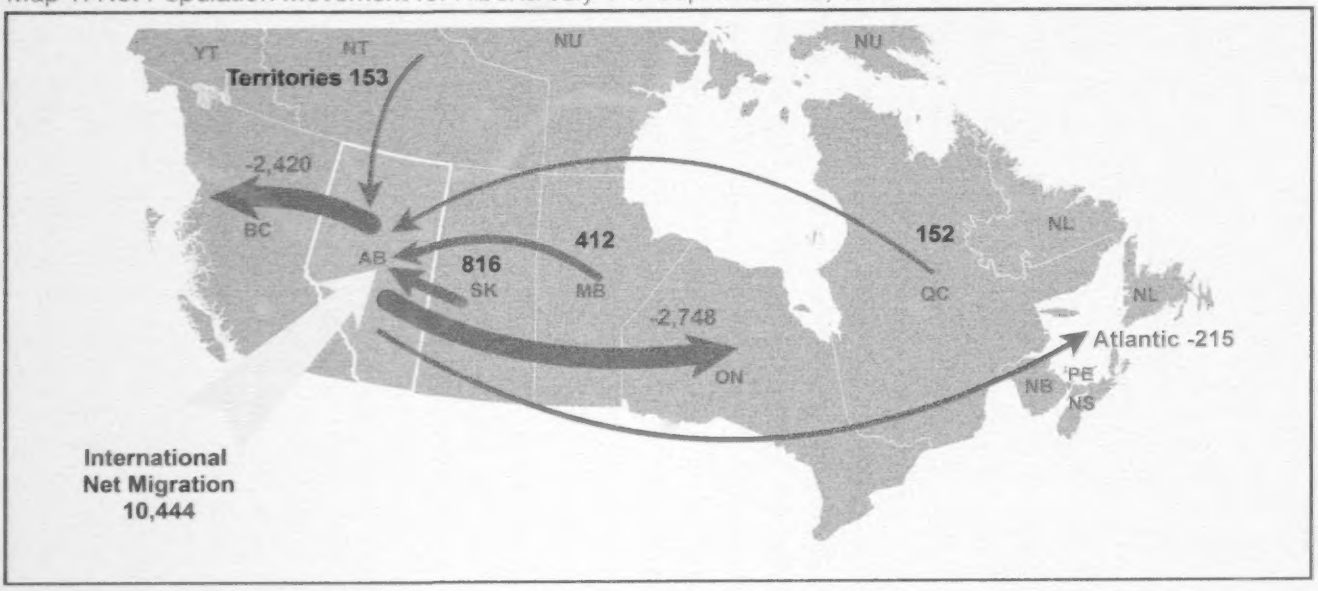

Table 3: Origin and Destination of Interprovincial Migrants July 1 to September 30, 2016

Origin \ Destination	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT
NL	0	31	331	153	77	854	28	27	535	206	0	0	33
PEI	34	0	255	107	38	574	19	14	144	89	0	0	0
NS	150	121	0	601	320	2,163	226	132	855	458	16	25	7
NB	98	95	885	0	769	1,347	48	66	665	191	0	4	20
QC	67	30	295	699	0	8,071	142	91	1,404	1,090	0	23	10
ON	448	199	1,352	945	3,793	0	903	769	4,554	4,691	33	103	76
MB	47	0	185	107	205	2,111	0	530	1,107	1,341	5	13	9
SK	9	0	94	76	156	1,508	377	0	2,862	1,197	32	3	0
AB	440	208	1,046	720	1,252	7,302	695	2,046	0	7,986	63	179	0
BC	144	21	469	299	999	5,201	454	633	5,566	0	186	43	23
YT	0	0	6	22	31	43	21	26	78	181	0	10	0
NWT	27	9	50	0	21	147	9	51	307	159	44	0	58
NVT	17	3	18	32	41	136	7	14	10	28	0	29	0

	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT
IN	1,481	717	4,986	3,761	7,702	29,457	2,929	4,399	18,087	17,617	379	432	236
OUT	2,275	1,274	5,074	4,188	11,922	17,866	5,660	6,314	21,937	14,038	418	882	335
NET	-794	-557	-88	-427	-4,220	11,591	-2,731	-1,915	-3,850	3,579	-39	-450	-99

Q3 2016	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT
Outflow to AB	535	144	855	665	1404	4554	1107	2862	0	5566	78	307	10
Inflow from AB	440	208	1046	720	1252	7302	695	2046	0	7986	63	179	0
Net Flow to AB	95	-64	-191	-55	152	-2,748	412	816	0	-2,420	15	128	10

Table 4: Alberta Components of Growth by Quarter

Quarters in Census Year	Interprovincial Migration			International Migration						Total	Vital Events		Total
	In	Out	Net	Immigrants	Net Non-Permanent Residents	Emigrants	Net Temporary Emigrants	Returning Emigrants	Net	Total Net Migration	Births	Deaths	Sum of Components
2012-13													
Jul-Sep	25,552	15,767	9,785	9,086	1,862	2,843	660	2,020	9,465	19,250	14,058	5,274	28,034
Oct-Dec	15,730	8,026	7,704	9,103	-355	1,473	531	771	7,515	15,219	12,888	5,671	22,436
Jan-Mar	21,438	11,692	9,746	8,095	5,284	1,522	547	745	12,055	21,801	12,835	5,947	28,689
Apr-Jun	29,833	18,470	11,363	10,582	7,316	1,661	545	1,440	17,132	28,495	13,760	5,549	36,706
Total	92,553	53,955	38,598	36,866	14,107	7,499	2,283	4,976	46,167	84,765	53,541	22,441	115,865
2013-14													
Jul-Sep	25,511	15,277	10,234	9,156	4,752	2,499	647	2,382	13,144	23,378	14,591	5,487	32,482
Oct-Dec	16,387	10,900	5,487	8,806	1,092	1,570	540	830	8,618	14,105	13,401	5,897	21,609
Jan-Mar	22,290	13,522	8,768	10,351	1,326	1,798	548	805	10,136	18,904	13,336	6,176	26,064
Apr-Jun	31,613	20,720	10,893	12,753	210	1,784	550	1,469	12,098	22,991	14,278	5,761	31,508
Total	95,801	60,419	35,382	41,066	7,380	7,651	2,285	5,486	43,996	79,378	55,606	23,321	111,663
2014-15													
Jul-Sep	22,189	15,803	6,386	10,283	43	2,515	646	2,382	9,547	15,933	15,100	5,690	25,343
Oct-Dec	14,650	11,574	3,076	9,150	-5,580	1,580	541	830	2,279	5,355	13,824	6,114	13,065
Jan-Mar	22,849	16,367	6,482	8,203	-5,775	1,811	548	805	874	7,356	13,692	6,396	14,652
Apr-Jun	29,786	24,136	5,650	11,970	-7,049	1,797	550	1,469	4,043	9,693	14,588	5,964	18,317
Total	89,474	67,880	21,594	39,606	-18,361	7,703	2,285	5,486	16,743	38,337	57,204	24,164	71,377
2015-16													
Jul-Sep	21,440	19,832	1,608	14,172	-2,662	2,523	646	2,382	10,723	12,331	15,351	5,884	21,798
Oct-Dec	11,355	12,150	-795	12,872	-3,541	1,586	541	830	8,034	7,239	14,001	6,323	14,917
Jan-Mar	16,869	18,394	-1,525	15,357	-1,980	1,817	548	805	11,817	10,292	13,875	6,609	17,558
Apr-Jun	21,837	24,002	-2,165	14,983	-1,633	1,802	550	1,469	12,467	10,302	14,808	6,164	18,946
Total	71,501	74,378	-2,877	57,384	-9,816	7,728	2,285	5,486	43,041	40,164	58,035	24,980	73,219
2016-17													
Jul-Sep	18,087	21,937	-3,850	10,072	1,159	2,523	646	2,382	10,444	6,594	15,529	6,073	16,050
Oct-Dec	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Jan-Mar	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Apr-Jun	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	18,087	21,937	-3,850	10,072	1,159	2,523	646	2,382	10,444	6,594	15,529	6,073	16,050